

BROOMALL, PA—The most prestigious rank that a Boy Scout can earn is that of Eagle Scout. On Sunday, April 4, 2009, at Marple Presbyterian Church in Broomall, that honor was conferred upon Stephen Robbins of Troop 468 at a traditional Eagle Scout Court of Honor attended by Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07).

In the course of those proceedings, there were many testaments to Eagle Scout Robbins's strength of character, leadership, and intelligence by his Scout leaders and fellow Scouts. However, the most important part of the ceremony occurs when the new "Eagle" thanks his family for their love and support throughout the long climb to that challenging rank. The Congressman commended Stephen's Eagle Scout project, for which he cleaned, prepped, and painted the interior walls of the Church's Christian Education Center.

In his remarks acknowledging Stephen's achievement, Congressman Sestak commented that, "the rank of Eagle Scout requires tremendous effort and is meant to recognize young men, like Stephen, who respect their community and nation. Stephen has made a public commitment to serve his community with honor, and I thank him for that. He has set an important example for other young men to follow. I join all of the residents of the 7th Congressional District in saluting Stephen, his troop, and, most importantly, his parents for all working together to raise such an outstanding young man."

"As someone who wore the cloth of this nation for 31 years in the Navy, I have a deep appreciation for those who truly understand what it means to serve their country," added Congressman Sestak. "I thank Stephen for his past and future service to our community and to our country."

Reaching the rank of Eagle Scout has always carried a special significance. Scouts that reach that level typically go on to success in higher education, and then to purposeful careers in business, industry, community service, and science. The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. Only about 5 percent of all boys who join Boy Scout troops earn the Eagle Scout rank. Approximately 1.7 million Boy Scouts have earned the rank since 1912. The goals of Scouting—citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness—remain important for all Scouts, whether or not they attain the Eagle Scout rank.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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